

Montana Rifle and Pistol Association



EXHIBIT 18
DATE 11/8/11
HB 148

PO Box 48
Ramsay, MT 59748
Jan 17, 2011

Montana House of Representatives
Fish Wildlife & Parks Committee
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Committee Members,

The Montana Legislature is considering House Bill 148 to allow the use of motorized vehicles for game retrieval. There are many who hunt who are also older or injured, particularly our returning disabled veterans. Retrieving game over a great distance is difficult and obtaining pack animals is expensive and can be difficult to schedule. Even a fit & healthy person would have difficulty getting a larger animal such as an Elk out of the woods. Given wolf predation and other factors, it is harder to find game closer to the roads in many cases.

I have not hunted in many years, in part owing to the time, logistics, and expense. My Father grew up in the Great Depression. After the war he got a good job and didn't need to subsist on what he could hunt or raise, so he eschewed both venison and chicken. He told me many times that it was less bother and less expense to go to the butcher shop. Many today still rely on game meat to feed their families, especially in these new tough economic times. It's a lot easier to find a friend with an ATV than someone with pack animals, and a lot cheaper and easier to get an ATV out to the woods on short notice.

I still believe that you should walk to hunt unless your doctor advises and your health dictate otherwise. But once the hunt is complete, the goal is to quickly get the game out of the woods before it spoils or is taken by scavengers. It does not seem unreasonable to allow someone to be escorted in with a suitable vehicle to safely and quickly retrieve the meat. Hunting should not become a sport limited to the wealthy through unintended consequence of regulation.

Cordially,

Matt Egloff, President, MRPA